GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:952
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
EXPORT OF POTATOES
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of potatoes during the current year;

(b) whether farmers are getting remunerative price for potatoes;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a permanent export policy for export of potatoes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : No targets are fixed for export of potatoes.

(b)&(c) : The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities to protect the growers from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop resulting in prices falling below economic levels or cost of production.The market intervention under the Scheme is done at the behest of the Governments of States and Union Territories.No request has been received from any State government for procurement of potato under the MIS.

(d)&(e):There is no proposal to formulate a separate export policy for potatoes.The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is extending financial assistance under its schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research & Development and Transport Assistance to exporters to facilitate export of agricultural produce including potato. Other steps in this direction include setting up of Agri Export Zones, organization of promotion campaigns abroad and and buyer-seller meets to promote export of potato.